

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /108 W

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R 040842Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1849

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 0035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: NEW YEARS STATEMENT

1. PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER AND ACTING CHAIRMAN OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY (DRP) ISSUED STATEMENTS RELATING TO POLITICAL SITUATION ON THE OCCASION OF FIRST WORK DAY OF THE NEW YEAR JANUARY 4.

2. PRESIDENT PARK, WHILE CALLING FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO WORK HARD FOR REVITALIZATION, LABELED THOSE WHO CALL FOR "RESTORATION" OF DEMOCRACY "A SMALL MINORITY OF IRRESPONSIBLE IDLER ." HE SAID THEIR SUCCESS WOULD MEAN DEFEAT FOR DEMOCRACY, RATHER THAN RESTORATION. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF KOREANS WANT TO WORK HARD IN A SECURE ENVIRONMENT TO BUILD NECESSARY FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY.

3. PRIME MINISTER QUOTED ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO THE EFFECT THAT ALTHOUGH EXCESSIVE GOVERNMENT POWER LEADS TO OPPRESSION A GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO GUARANTEE ITS SURVIVAL. REPEATING THEME OF HIS TELEVISION SPEECH HE CONFESSED THAT SOME OFFICIALS, ACTING LIKE OLD-FASHIONED BUREAUCRATS, HAD MISUSED YUSHIN TO OPPRESS PEOPLE. HE CALLED ON BUREAUCRACY

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TO WIN PUBLIC COOPERATION AND CONFIDENCE THROUGH SERVICE.

4. ADDRESSING PARTY WORKERS, DRP ACTING CHAIRMAN YI HYU-SANG
PROMISED TO DEFEND YUSHIN SYSTEM AND ADDED THAT DRP WELCOMES
CALL BY GOVERNMENT OPPONENTS FOR PUBLIC DEBATE. HE SAID DRP
WOULD GLADLY ORGANIZE AN OPEN DISCUSSION IN PRESS OR ON
TELEVISION WITH THOSE WHO SEEK TO CHANGE YUSIN SYSTEM. TIMING
WOULD BE AFTER PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE.
UNDERHILL

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